

Among the Soldiers

CHRISTMAS BOXES FOR BELGIAN SOLDIERS.

By Mrs. Edith Fox Norton.

The ways of God are inscrutable and very beautiful. A gospel is given to a Belgian soldier on a crowded street of London. Two years after 12,000 men, because of that one gift, are reading and carrying on the work of God.

Our hearts are stirred to gratitude and praise as we look back to those early days and realize what in the succeeding months God has wrought. It has been a work with little or no machinery, no extensive organization, no carefully outlined plans, but we "being in the way" were led to a Belgian soldier, and lo! an army has been brought to the knowledge of Christ.

What are some of the results today of these more than two years of evangelization among the Belgian soldiers? Peter Van K——, the Belgian soldier to whom we gave the gospel, has himself led more than

RHEUMATISM AND INDIGESTION

Practically all physicians and medical writers are agreed that there is a close relationship between indigestion and Rheumatism. This view is substantiated by the fact that Shivar Spring Water, which is probably the best American mineral water for Dyspepsia and Indigestion, relieves Rheumatism and the Rheumatoid diseases, such as Gout, Sciatica, Neuralgia and Nervous Headache. All of these diseases are probably related and all are probably due in whole or in part to imperfect digestion or to imperfect assimilation of food. Physicians who have studied this water and who have observed its effects in their practice believe that it relieves these maladies by rendering the digestion complete and perfect and thereby preventing the formation of those poisons which inflame the joints and irritate the nerves, and also by eliminating, through the kidneys, such poisons as have already been formed.

The following letters are interesting in this connection. Dr. Crosby, a South Carolina physician, writes:—"I have tested your Spring Water in several cases of Rheumatism, Chronic Indigestion, Kidney and Bladder troubles and in Nervous and Sick Headaches and find that it has acted nicely in each case, and I believe that, if used continuously for a reasonable time, will produce a permanent cure. It will purify the blood, relieve debility, stimulate the action of the Liver, Kidneys and Bladder, aiding them in throwing off all poisonous matter."

Dr. Avant, of Savannah, writes:—"I suffered for years with a most aggravating form of stomach disorder and consulted a number of our best local physicians, went to Baltimore and consulted specialists there and still I was not benefited. I had about despaired of living when I began to use Shivar Spring Water and in a short time was cured."

Mr. Rhodes, of Virginia, writes:—"Please send me ten gallons of Shivar Spring Water quickly. I want it for Rheumatism. I know of several who were cured of Rheumatism with this water."

Editor Cunningham writes:—"The water has done more good than any medicine I have ever taken for Rheumatism. Am entirely free from pain."

Mr. McClam, of South Carolina, writes:—"My wife has been a sufferer from Rheumatism and after drinking twenty gallons of your Mineral Water was entirely cured of the horrible disease."

Mr. Carter, of Virginia, writes:—"Mrs. Carter has had enlarged joints upon her hands, caused by Rheumatism. Shivar Spring Water removed every trace of the enlargement. The water is simply excellent."

If you suffer with Rheumatism, or with any chronic disease, accept the guarantee offer below by signing your name. Clip and mail to the Shivar Spring,

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Gentlemen:—I accept your guarantee offer and enclose herewith two dollars for ten gallons (two five-gallon demijohns) of Shivar Spring Water. I agree to give the water a fair trial in accordance with instructions which you will send, and if I derive no benefit you are to refund the price in full upon receipt of the two empty demijohns, which I agree to return promptly.

Name,

Post Office,

Express Office,

(Please write distinctly.)

four hundred men to the acceptance of Christ. He has raised up about him a number of men, some of them amongst the hardest men in his regiment before they were brought under the sway of Christ, and with these co-laborers he is reaching an ever-widening circle of men and bringing them into touch with the gospel. Officers are becoming interested. Peter's own captain calls him from his dugout at any time of day or night to talk with him concerning the things of the kingdom. Over two hundred thousand copies of the Scriptures in all have been distributed and, as has been previously stated, there are over twelve thousand men in the army who have pledged themselves to read and carry the word of God daily and to prayerfully consider what they have read.

Peter has stated to us a significant thing. He says, "Do you realize that every man who takes a Testament and joins this league, avows himself by this act to be a Protestant?"

In a wonderful way has the knowledge of Peter's "Scripture League" spread to Belgian soldiers everywhere. From soldiers interned in Germany come requests for packages of Scriptures to distribute. A boy who, when being taken prisoner loses his New Testament, writes to us pleading, "Do send me another Testament. I have lost this, my little guide to heaven, and I cannot live without its comfort."

From Holland, where are thousands of Belgian soldiers interned, come such appeals for the word of God. One boy, through the sufferings which he endured last winter from the terrible cold, is dying from consumption, but steadily he works for the league, keeping careful account of all the men whom he enrolls, and their number is now in the hundreds.

In a marvelous way, too, throughout hospitals and at military bases in France has spread the desire for the word of God and the knowledge of the Scripture League founded for Belgian soldiers. We are never surprised when appeals come for admission to the league and for Scriptures from any quarter of Europe. It has even gained a slight foothold in the Italian army and amongst enemy prisoners of war in the Island of Malta. We have sent Testaments to these men in Bohemian, German, Arabic and Croatian, and a last letter brought requests for Testaments for some "pious" Bulgarians.

At the Belgian front over five hundred men are workers for the league, and are doing soul winning amongst their comrades. The result of one man's work brought his whole company to the acceptance of Christ and to the acceptance of Protestantism. This he knows for a fact because a census was taken of his division in the army to see if there were enough Protestants to have a chaplain of their own. He said he was simply amazed to see the hands go up one after the other until all but five in the company had avowed themselves Protestants. Does not such work count?

It has been a unique field, this work in the Belgian army. Probably no other people have been so kept in ignorance and bound by superstition. Now the shackles are loosed and they have had brought to them the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, and with inexpressible hunger of soul they are reaching out toward the light and embracing the glorious truth of salvation by faith.

In looking back over the last year's wondrous growth and extension of this work we find it due almost altogether to the gift of Christmas boxes which were sent out from us to the Belgian army last year. Such grate-

ful response we had never dreamed possible. Any barriers of distrust or doubt were completely swept away by these gifts. Men's hearts were broken by these tokens of love, and they were made to understand the love of the heart of Christ whose servants we are.

Not once but a thousand times they wrote us, "Let us know more about your religion. We have never seen anything like this. Our religion has only made demands of us. This is a religion of love." Not once but a thousand times was written to us, "I am reading for the first time in my life the New Testament. I never dreamed there was such a book in the world. Oh, why has it been kept from us all these years. Tell me how I can become a member of your holy religion?" And let it be said that some of our best workers have been recruited from among these men to whom gifts have first gone. In a peculiar manner a Belgian soldier to be won for Christ must be won first of all to love and belief in those who would teach him of Christ.

Is not such a work worth while? Is it not worth while fishing for Belgian soldiers with the bait of loving gifts? We believe and know that it is. So in faith we have ordered 31,500 Christmas boxes for this year, and are back here in America, braving the perils of the sea that for two months we might plead with American friends to give of their bounty that through their gifts the souls of Belgian soldiers may be won. We are looking forward, too, to the days after the war when our entrance into Belgium and into the hearts of the people, as we seek to win them also to a knowledge of the truth, shall be made easy because of what we did for their sons in their days of greatest need.

We might add that as before the boxes for Belgian soldiers at the front will contain only foodstuffs, salmon, baked beans, chocolate, meat pate and sweets and, of course, the enclosure of a gospel and some booklets explaining the Scripture League. Of the 31,500 boxes 6,500 will go to Belgian prisoners of war in Germany. These boxes will contain each a shirt, a pair of wool socks, and a couple of handkerchiefs. Oh, how we wish this number of boxes might be doubled, trebled. Will not you, our American friends, help make it so and in so doing be the means of bringing into the knowledge and acceptance of Christ many who otherwise could not be won.

Any gifts may be sent to Charles G. Trumbull, treasurer, care Sunday-school Times, 1031 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

NUXATED IRON



Dr. Ferdinand King, New York Physician and Medical Author, tells physicians that they should prescribe more organic iron—Nuxated Iron—for their patients—Says anaemia—iron deficiency—is the greatest cause to the health strength vitality and beauty of the modern American Woman.—Sounds warning against use of metallic iron which may injure the teeth, corrode the stomach and do far more harm than good; advises use of only nuxated iron, taken three times per day after meals. It will increase the strength and endurance of weak, nervous, run-down folks 100% in two weeks time in many instances. Dispensed by all good druggists.

FINDS SOLDIERS NEED EVERY POSSIBLE COMFORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT.

The need that exists in Europe for the various activities which the American Red Cross is carrying on abroad is reflected in a letter from Dr. Hugh Birkhead, of Baltimore, a Red Cross inspector, recently published in the Baltimore Sun. Speaking of United States soldiers already in France, he said:

"The fellows now in France are bearing the hardest burden that is to be borne by our armies, because they

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